

Message Text

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11

ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AF-10 ARA-16 EA-11 EUR-25 NEA-10 RSC-01

SR-02 ORM-03 AID-20 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-15 USIA-15

ACDA-19 OMB-01 TRSE-00 ABF-01 DRC-01 /205 W

----- 027493

R 051540Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4607

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

USINT CAIRO

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 11866

KUWAIT ALSO POUCH DOHA

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR EAID, SREF, UNRWA, XF

SUBJECT: UNRWA COMGEN EMBARKS ON FUND-RAISING TOUR OF VARIOUS
ARAB COUNTRIES

1. WITH UNRWA FACING DOLS 3.3 MILLION DEFICIT IN CY 1973
AND ANOTHER OF MAGNITUDE DOLS 10 MILLION IN CY 1974,
COMGEN RENNIE WILL SOON VISIT WEALTHY ARAB STATES IN
LAST-DITCH EFFORT OBTAIN PROMISES OF ADDITIONAL IN-
COME BEFORE HE TRAVELS TO NEW YORK TO OUTLINE AGENCY
FINANCIAL PROBLEM BEFORE UNGA. HE PLANS TRAVEL TO
QATAR, SAUDI ARABIA AND KUWAIT (ALTHOUGH LATTER STOP
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STILL TENTATIVE PENDING CONFIRMATION OF APPOINTMENT

WITH PRIMIN) OCT 5 THOROUGH 8, AND THEN TO LIBYA OCT 10-11.
(VISIT TO ABU DHABI PRECLUDED BY ABSENCE OF RULER AND
FONMIN.) IN HIS MEETINGS WITH HIGH-LEVEL OFFICIALS
(INCLUDING KING FEISAL OCT 7 IN RIYADH), RENNIE WILL MAKE
RENEWED APPEAL FOR GREATER ARAB SUPPORT IN ORDER
RELIEVE AGENCY'S BURDENSOME FINANCIAL PROBLEMS AND REDUCE
LIKELIHOOD OF TROUBLE-MAKING CUTBACKS IN REFUGEE SERVICES.

2. RENNIE HAS ATTEMPTED SET STAGE FOR THESE VISITS BY EX-
PLAINING UNRWA'S PREDICAMENT--TOGETHER WITH POTENTIAL
PROBLEMS IT POSES FOR ARAB GOVTS--TO APPROPRIATE ARAB
AMBASSADORS IN BEIRUT, IN LETTERS TO ARAB LEAGUE SYG
MAHMOUD RIAD (WHOSE GOOD OFFICES COMGEN REQUESTED IN
PRESENTING UNRWA'S CASE TO WEALTHY ARAB GOVTS), AND IN
RECENT MEETINGS WITH PRESIDENT FRANGIE HERE AND KING HUSSEIN
IN AMMAN. HE ALSO HAS KEPT GOL AUTHORITIES AND EVEN PLO
AUTHORITIES INFORMED OF HIS EFFORTS SOLVE UNRWA'S FINANCIAL
PROBLEMS IN COURSE OF PERIODIC MEETINGS WITH DIRECTOR-
GENERAL OF PUBLIC SECURITY AND PLO REP TO DISCUSS AGENCY'S
DAY-TO-DAY PROBLEMS VIS-A-VIS PALESTINIANS IN LEBANON.

3. COMGEN HAS HAD NO SOLID INDICATION WHETHER WEALTHIER
ARAB GOVTS HAVE REALLY GOTTEN HIS MESSAGE THAT ONLY IF
THEY ABLE UP THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS BY SOME 7 OR 8 MILLION
DOLARS WILL IT BE POSSIBLE FOR UNRWA AVOID SEVERE CUTS
IN ITS BUDGET AND ITS SERVICES, BEGINNING NEXT YEAR.
HE HOPES THAT SOME GOVTS MAY REALIZE IMPLICATIONS FOR
ARAB WORLD OF SHARP REDUCTION IN UNRWA OPERATIONS, NOT
ONLY IN LOWERING LEVEL OF EDUCATION AND OTHER SERVICES
AND RUNNING RISK OF UNREST IN LEBANON, SYRIA AND JORDAN;
BUT ALSO IN CREATING OPPORTUNITY FOR THOSE WITHIN ISRAELI
GOVTWHO WISH TAKE OVER DIRECT ADMINISTRATION OF PALES-
TINIANS IN OCCUPIED TERRITORIES. HE NOT OVERLY OPTIMISTIC
SINCE HE FULLY AWARE THAT TRADITIONAL ARAB PREJUDICES
TOWARD UNRWA REMAIN. NEVERTHELESS, HE BELIEVES THAT EFFORT
MUST BE MADE IF ONLY TO ENABLE HIM REPORT TO UNGA THAT HE
HAS EXPOLORED PERSONALLY ALL POSSIBLE SOURCES OF OBTAINING
GREATER REVENUE.

4. COMMENT: WE SHARE RESERVATIONS OF COMGEN RE AMOUNT
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OF EXTRA MONEY HE LIABLE RAISE FROM WEALTHIER ARAB STATES,
WHO BEING CONSTANTLY SOLICITED FROM LEFT AND RIGHT. WE
WOULD APPRECIATE WHATEVER INFO MAY BE PICKED UP RE UNRWA
CONTRIBUTIONS BY OUR EMBASSIES IN COUNTRIES ON COMGEN ROUTE.

5. RENNIE EXPECTS ARRIVE NEW YORK ON OR ABOUT OCT 18,
AFTER STOPPING OFF IN GENEVA, BONN AND THE HAGUE EN
ROUTE. HE ALSO PLANS TRAVEL TO WASHINGTON FOR TALKS

WITH DEPT OFFICIALS AT SOME POINT DURING HIS STAY IN US.
BUFFUM

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 05 OCT 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973BEIRUT11866
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS BUFFUM
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: BEIRUT
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19731049/aaaabjisp.tel
Line Count: 117
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 02 JAN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <02-Jan-2002 by martinml>; APPROVED <14-Jan-2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: UNRWA COMGEN EMBARKS ON FUND-RAISING TOUR OF VARIOUS ARAB COUNTRIES
TAGS: PFOR, EAID, SREF, XF, UNRWA
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005